

Date: Thu, 26 May 94 21:40:25 PDT  
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>  
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu  
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu  
Precedence: Bulk  
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V94 #580  
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest                      Thu, 26 May 94                      Volume 94 : Issue 580

Today's Topics:

        "for ID" (2 msgs)  
        2 meter thru-glass  
Bizarre QST statement (2 msgs)  
Converting an old HT-220 to 2M  
        Field Day!  
        IDing (3 msgs)  
RFI from light switches  
        SSB Filters

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>  
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>  
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available  
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text  
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official  
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

-----  
Date: Thu, 26 May 1994 12:54:14 GMT  
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!library.ucla.edu!europa.eng.gtefsd.com!  
howland.reston.ans.net!vixen.cso.uiuc.edu!news.eecs.uic.edu!uicvm.uic.edu!  
wheaton.wheaton.edu!tellab5!jwa@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: "for ID"  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

What about guys that keep saying "Ahhhhhhh" all the time?

Like "Ahhhh my name is Fred.    Ahhh my QTH is,    Ahhhh my  
rig is a ,    Ahhhhhh Ahhhhhh Ahhhhhhhh my antenna is Ahhhh".

---

Jack Albert    WA9FVP

Fellow Radio Hacker

-----  
Date: Thu, 26 May 1994 12:41:24 GMT  
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!usc!howland.reston.ans.net!vixen.cso.uiuc.edu!  
news.eecs.uic.edu!uicvm.uic.edu!wheaton.wheaton.edu!tellab5!jwa@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: "for ID"  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

>gary@ke4zv.atl.ga.us (Gary Coffman) says:  
>  
>>if you're in a \*large\* roundtable, and 10 minutes has passed since  
>>your last ID, you might insert your callsign "for ID" at a pause.  
>>That tells everyone that you're not asking to break rotation, just  
>>stay legal.

For years the Amateur Radio Handbook included a section called  
"Operating a Station". The first several paragraphs always mentioned  
the correct operating procedure for voice operation. I don't remember  
seeing any reference to the practice "4/ID".

If it's time to identify yourself, you simply give your call!

---  
Jack Albert WA9FVP                      Fellow Radio Hacker

-----  
Date: Thu, 26 May 1994 21:30:55 GMT  
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!swrinde!gatech!howland.reston.ans.net!news.cac.psu.edu!  
news.pop.psu.edu!ra!usenet@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: 2 meter thru-glass  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Look here folks. A lot of technical folklore gets passed around the  
amateur community, and some of it is incorrect. But of all the subjects  
that suffer from the propagation of inaccurate technical folklore, the  
subject of antennas suffers the most.

I have ask for, and have received advice about antenna installations.  
Some of it good, some of it bad. Many opinion are in conflict:

...you need a ground plane... no, you don't need one... my  
through-the-glass antenna works great... mine sucked, so I returned it...  
you must use a balun... why? ... well, just because... RF current occurs  
on the feedline ... well then why is the coax on top of the ground plane  
(car roof)?... gee, I don't know, good question...

Now I have to admit that even I have contributed to this problem.

So now I ask the academics out there to respond, not some elec-tech.

Question: Has *anyone* done a comprehensive scientific study of the performance of through-the-glass antennas, or any other mobile antenna installations. This includes input impedance, radiation patterns, etc. I'm looking for an IEEE paper showing how Halen's integral equation is solved, and not some QST article with a couple of mismarked graphs showing a radiation pattern measured using a field strength meter from Radio Shack and a tape measure.

Antenna theory is not my specialty, but it would be refreshing to read something written by someone with scientific authority, and not by someone who 'know antennas,' but still uses the 'left hand rule' to derive the magnetic field due to electron current flow.

-Dave

--

David Drumheller, KA3QBO                      phone: (202) 767-3524  
Acoustics Division, Code 7140                fax: (202) 404-7732  
Naval Research Laboratory  
Washington, DC 20375-5350    e-mail: drumhell@claudette.nrl.navy.mil

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Date: 26 May 1994 19:21:09 GMT  
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!usc!howland.reston.ans.net!math.ohio-state.edu!  
magnus.acs.ohio-state.edu!csn!col.hp.com!fc.hp.com!news.lvld.hp.com!  
scott@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: Bizarre QST statement  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Steve Wilson (steve@sheridan.ncd.com) wrote:

: In article <gregCqDF5I.J7y@netcom.com>, greg@netcom.com (Greg Bullough) writes:  
: |> One wonders how such a bizarre and subjective criteria got by the  
: |> editorial staff. Would we really tell a Novice not to buy a good  
: |> used TR4C or FT-101!?!  
: |>  
: |> Yeah, I like 6146s better, but sweep tubes are both effective and  
: |> available.  
: |>  
: |> Greg

... deleted

: As a side comment, and past owner of a venerable TR3 which uses  
: 3 sweep tubes in parallel...they are an absolute headache to

: neutralize!

Hmm. I've got to agree with Greg. I find the warning about sweep tubes a bit overdone. I've also not had any great difficulty in neutralizing my TR4 (3 6JB6s) or T4X (2 6JB6s).

These radios were my first introduction to HF, and I think they've served extremely well as beginner's rigs. The 6JB6 sweep tubes used in Drakes are readily available, fairly inexpensive (even for quality US NOS) and robust enough if you heed the warnings in the manuals. Drakes are quality older radios and it's a shame to steer newcomers away from them.

What the author really should have done rather than warn beginners about sweep tube finals is to warn them about the vagaries of radios with older, harder to find electrolytic filter capacitors that delight in failing at the worst possible times. The only sweep tube failure I've had came from a filter cap in the Drake power supply dying, which caused the TR relay to fail, ultimately trashing the PA tubes. All, of course, while I was out of the room for a while. I kinda doubt 6146s would've fared any better.

Scott Turner KG0MR scott@hpsila.LVLD.HP.COM

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Date: Thu, 26 May 1994 11:52:43 GMT

From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!usc!howland.reston.ans.net!noc.near.net!usenet.elf.com!rpi!psinnntp!arrl.org!zlau@network.ucsd.edu

Subject: Bizarre QST statement

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Greg Bullough (greg@netcom.com) wrote:

: In talking about hybrid rigs, he instructs the neophyte to stay  
: away from those which have sweep tubes in the final, and go only  
: for those with 'real' transmitting tubes (6146, presumably).

: Yeah, I like 6146s better, but sweep tubes are both effective and  
: available.

For you, perhaps. But we get phone calls and letters from people who just can't seem to find sweep tubes anymore or that the people who do sell them charge too much.

BTW : Antique Electronics Supply in Tempe Az seems to be a

source of tubes 602-820-5411.

--

Zack Lau KH6CP/1 2 way QRP WAS  
8 States on 10 GHz  
Internet: zlau@arrl.org 10 grids on 2304 MHz

-----

Date: Thu, 26 May 1994 18:20:17 GMT  
From: pa.dec.com!crl.dec.com!nntpd.lkg.dec.com!ryn.mro.dec.com!est.enet.dec.com!  
randolph@decwrl.dec.com  
Subject: Converting an old HT-220 to 2M  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1994May25.203349.11883@oracle.us.oracle.com>,  
usenet@oracle.us.oracle.com (Oracle News Poster) writes...  
> I have a Motorola Ht-220 Type CC3540 Serial # L06K2D Model H33FFN1100E.  
> It transmits and Receives on 163.5375 MHz. It has a 15 Volt NiCad. It is  
> xmit: 18170.8

The transmitter in these uses freq. triplers to get up from the xtal freq. to  
TX freq.  $18170.8 \times 3 \times 3 = 163537.2$ . Mine is a 462 MHz unit that has one more  
tripler to get up there.

> rcv: 48912.50

Let's see...  $\text{receive xtal} = (\text{Tx freq} - \text{IF freq}) / n$ ; where  $n = 3, 9, 27$  etc.  
Using  $n=3$  we get an IF of 16.8 MHz, which sounds reasonable. International  
Crystal Mfg. has crystals for these radios - call them at 405 236 3741 and tell  
them what you have. You may need model number and "chassis number" which is a  
number like NUE6001BA that you can find inside the battery compartment. The  
xtals are a bit pricey - \$15 to \$25 each, but what the heck, I only paid \$10  
for the radio at a flea. You will need to re-tune the tuned circuits in the  
radio, and for this you will need the Motorola manual... try Motorola or a  
local service shop for that. I copied the 450-488 MHz radio manual that another  
ham here had around. Make sure whoever knows you are re-tuning to a ham  
band, or else they'll want to know your commercial license #!

By the way, I have a line on cheaper crystals from a different source, still  
waiting for someone to get back to me on that.

> There is also a "PL Reed" that I will probably need.

This is pre-microprocessor coded squelch technology. A tiny mechanical reed  
functions similar to a quartz crystal, except at audio freqs. If you're going  
to use the HT to get into a repeater with PL tone access you need it, otherwise  
you don't, like for simplex. Mine came with one, but you could always add one

of those tiny PL decode/encode boards from the back of QST.

> Last (and least?) I need a charger for the Ni-CAD.

Yah, these radios typically are placed in a "drop-in charger" which does the job. I'm not sure how I'm going to handle this myself... The battery that came in mine was good, though, and charged up to 15V no problem. Pick up a spare at a flea, as Moto wants something like \$75 for them.

> Doug N8TUT

Good luck with the mods! I'll be doing mine as soon as I find out about those cheap xtals! Makes an interesting project...

-Tom R. N100Q randolph@est.enet.dec.com

-----  
Date: 26 May 1994 20:52:34 GMT  
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!usc!math.ohio-state.edu!magnus.acs.ohio-state.edu!csn!  
col.hp.com!srngenprp!news.dtc.hp.com!hpscit.sc.hp.com!icon!hpchase.rose.hp.com!  
cmoore@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: Field Day!  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

John E. Taylor III (rohvm1.mah48d@rohmmaas.com) wrote:  
: ... You can figure, based on the current drain of your  
: rig on transmit and receive, how much power you'll need for the contest--I  
: use a 25% key-down time estimate for the calculation: (time \* receive  
: current \* 0.75) + (time \* transmit current \* 0.25).

Once you get this figure, what do you do with it? All the car batteries I've seen have just a "cold cranking amps" number, no amp-hour information. Maybe it's different for the deep-cycle marine batteries? If not, is there some way you can tell how long a battery can sustaining a particular current level based on the "cold cranking amps?"

Chris Moore  
N6IYS  
cmoore@cancun.rose.hp.com

-----  
Date: 26 May 1994 15:03:40 -0500  
From: illuminati.io.com!nobody@uunet.uu.net  
Subject: IDing  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <2rt9dh\$46r@master.cs.rose-hulman.edu>,

John Derry <derry@NeXtWork.Rose-Hulman.Edu> wrote:

>

<Fake conversation deleted>

>Another bad habit is "This is AR1RL for ID". Does anyone know why people  
>say this? Also there seems to be a growing trend to say call letters  
>instead of saying "over" or "go ahead". Some amateurs say their call  
>letters at the end of each transmission.

>

Bravo! Damned fine point! Agreed wholeheartedly!

I'm newly licensed 3 weeks now, but I've been listening on my scanner  
for 6 months. The way I was taught versus how some of the  
hams do it is 180 opposite.

I was taught to say "This is KB8SGL monitoring(or listening)" when  
I am just pokin' on a channel, waitin' for a QSO. I hear this:  
"This is AB1CDE listening on 146.88"

Why the hell do you need to tell me the frequency I'm listening to?

>Use of Q signals on phone doesn't make much sense either. Better to use  
>JUST PLAIN ENGLISH, or whatever you speak wherever you live. It takes  
>more effort and time to say "QSL" than "roger". Also, if you say "What is  
>your QTH?", what you are saying is "What is your what is your QTH?".

>

Agreed again! I was told "Do NOT use Q signals on phone. Use plain  
english!!!" Since I don't know CW at all, I know very few Q signals.  
When people ask me something, like, "What is your home QTH?" I know  
what they mean, but I ask myself "Why the hell don't you just ASK  
me where I live?"

>Finally, every amateur should learn the standard phonetics and use them no  
>more than necessary.

>

<Massive amounts of cheering and agreeing in background>

I sign : Kilo Bravo Eight Sierra Golf Lima (lee-ma) KB8SGL

I do NOT like to hear

"Kathy Bathroom Eight Salt Grapes Laxative"

I learned standard phoenitics so I can understand a transmission which  
is so staticy and garbled, when I hear

"...is ... avo..arlie...ix..pa..omeo...elta" I can almost certainly  
say BC6PRD . If I hear somethign else, I won't respond.

It's my practice when I'm monitoring to ignore all transmissions  
which are not within \*my\* standards. Why respond to

"Coke Albert Three Very Large Zebra"? Who knows what they're doing?

For all i know, I should report them to the FCC for sending an  
encoded/encrypted message across amatuer bands.

>The habits an amateur acquires when not participating in net operation  
>will undoubtedly carry over to those times when quickness and efficiency  
>are of utmost importance.

>

Yes, but the veterans who have been around for god knows how  
many years will argue they do it THEIR way and THEIR way has been  
working for years, so why change now?

>73 es cul de K9CUN (for ID!)

>

>DERRY@ROSEVC.ROSE-HULMAN.EDU

--

.....  
Matt Rupert | 2984 Pheasant Run Drive Apt D | Jackson, MI 49202 | (517) 782-1438  
Security - Organization Meetings/Bookings - Professoinal Harasser  
UNIX / Amateur Radio enthusiast KB8SGL

-----  
Date: 26 May 1994 15:47:30 -0500  
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!swrinde!cs.utexas.edu!not-for-mail@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: IDing  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <2s2vas\$940@illuminati.io.com>,  
hoagy@illuminati.io.com (Sir Hoagy), alias Matt Rupert wrote:

[stuff deleted]

> I'm newly licensed 3 weeks now, but I've been listening on my scanner  
> for 6 months. The way \_I\_ was taught versus how some of the  
> hams do it is 180 opposite.  
> I was taught to say "This is KB8SGL monitoring(or listening)" when  
> I am just pokin' on a channel, waitin' for a QSO. I hear this:  
> "This is AB1CDE listening on 146.88"

> Why the \$#@! do you need to tell me the frequency I'm listening to?  
[more stuff deleted]

I see it as a courtesy.

It is a matter of safety for the driving individuals than anything  
else because it allows the drivers desiring to listen or respond  
to know which frequency you are using and quickly take thier radio out  
of scan mode and set it on your frequency --- all without taking their  
eyes off the road for very long.

It also helps others at home with their base station set to scan to know



the same thing even if they are listening from across or in another room.

Jeff Johnson,  
KF8UW

-----  
Date: Thu, 26 May 1994 22:03:27 GMT  
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!usc!elroy.jpl.nasa.gov!ncar!csn!qwerty.fsl.noaa.gov!  
bora.fsl.noaa.gov!showalte@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: IDing  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

>"This is AB1CDE listening on 146.88"

>

>Why the hell do you need to tell me the frequency I'm listening to?

>.....  
>Matt Rupert | 2984 Pheasant Run Drive Apt D | Jackson, MI 49202 | (517) 782-1438  
> Security - Organization Meetings/Bookings - Professoinal Harasser  
> UNIX / Amateur Radio enthusiast KB8SGL

I can only see one reason for telling the frequency that I am on, so that someone listening on a scanner will know which frequency the call was on if they don't catch it in time to see it. I have only used this technique when calling a specific person though. I can't really see the need when monitoring.

...Scott

-----  
Date: Thu, 26 May 1994 20:21:41 GMT  
From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!library.ucla.edu!csulb.edu!csus.edu!netcom.com!  
n4zr@network.ucsd.edu  
Subject: RFI from light switches  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Has anyone out there ever encountered RFI from light switches? I don't mean dimmers or capacitance touch-switches, but ordinary 72-cent silent wall switches.

Last winter I started getting interested in 75-meter phone DXing. In the process I began listening with my receiver in USB mode. To my surprise, there was a very loud and frequently-present rough carrier on about 3760 KHz, accompanied by buzzy impulse noise extending only on the lower side, down about 20 KHz. After some exploration, I discovered another

"carrier" at about 3513, with noise extending below IT down past the lower band-edge. Both signals were well over S-9, but nobody else in my town could hear them.

I got a portable radio with BFO and began sniffing around the neighborhood. Sure enough, the noise localized to a neighbor's house. I explained the situation to him, and we started sniffing around the place. We found nothing until, in the course of events, he turned ON the bathroom light. Suddenly, the noise stopped. I had him turn the switch off, and it started up again.

The bathroom light in question is incandescent, with no dimmer or other active device in the circuit. I replaced the light switch for him (with the same brand of garden-variety spdt switch), and no more noise.

A few days later I discovered another pair of "carriers" in roughly the same places on the band, with similar characteristics but not quite as strong. To shorten things, I sniffed and found two more light switches, same kind, which were the source. When I replaced them, the noise vanished.

I haven't noticed any more of these signals since, but you can imagine the potential -- I live in an area with over 200 houses, each with at least 10 of these switches.

So does anyone have similar experience, or a physical explanation for what was happening? I was not drinking on either occasion, BTW ;}.

Pete N4ZR (n4zr@netcom.com)

--

73, Pete

n4zr@netcom.com

NOTE: New Address

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Date: Thu, 26 May 1994 11:26:38 GMT

From: ihnp4.ucsd.edu!swrinde!cs.utexas.edu!howland.reston.ans.net!noc.near.net!usenet.elf.com!rpi!psinnpt!arrl.org!zlau@network.ucsd.edu

Subject: SSB Filters

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Elendir F1RCS (elendir@enst.fr) wrote:

: I'm (still) planning to build a multimode multibander (VHF/UHF) rig.  
: In the course of designing the SSB part, I am of course facing the  
: problem of filtering the unwanted LSB.  
: I've talked on the air with several hams that seem pretty positive that  
: it is no more possible to find SSB Xtal filters in France.

: Does someone have any clue regarding a possible US source for these ?  
: What I'd like to find out is a 10.7003 to 10.703 Xtal Filter, with at least  
: 60 dB at 10.6997 MHz. But a 9 MHz look-alike filter (or any IF) would  
: fit also.

10.7 MHz SSB filters are rather unusual. However, I'm surprised that amateur dealers don't sell useable filters. In the USA, you can often buy optional filters to put in your amateur transceiver to get a different bandwidth than what the radio came with.

However, the trend is to \*make\* your own filter out of microprocessor clock crystals. For roughly \$10 worth of crystals, you can make a decent filter and have some crystals for the oscillator(s). They even sell 9 MHz crystals.

--

Zack Lau KH6CP/1                    2 way QRP WAS  
                                     8 States on 10 GHz  
Internet: zlau@arrl.org    10 grids on 2304 MHz

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Date: 26 May 1994 15:28:58 -0600  
From: mnemosyne.cs.du.edu!nyx10.cs.du.edu!not-for-mail@uunet.uu.net  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <2ro5vg\$k89@geraldo.cc.utexas.edu>, <N>,  
<gregg.300.2DE0A935@plains.nodak.edu>t  
Subject : Re: "for ID"

In article <gregg.300.2DE0A935@plains.nodak.edu>,  
Joe Gregg <gregg@plains.nodak.edu> wrote:  
>"for ID" is one of my many pet peeves. Why the heck else would you say your  
>call? You ALWAYS give your call "for ID." It is just an annoying habit.

I don't know about it being a pet peeve, but I do find it funny.  
Sometimes if it's just to butt in for your 10-minute ID, yes I can see it.  
But it's rather redundant otherwise.

Same I guess for half the calls that add "mobile". I mean, for the most part I think it's great that the caller is driving around or whatever, but 9 times out of 10 it really makes no difference to me whether you're driving, walking, or standing on your head during your conversation. There's hardly anything that can interrupt or interfere with a conversation while mobile that couldn't also happen if you're "immobile" -- including walking through your house if overpasses are an issue. Even still, if I tell the person that their signal is bad, I really don't expect them to pull over to the shoulder anyway. Perhaps I should have some fun with this

habit and say things like "KD6QPY scratching" or "KD6QPY digesting".

>>It might make communications much easier if we just said what we  
>>meant all the time, which means proper phonetics and procedures.  
>>The cute stuff is OK when you know you are S9+, I suppose.  
>  
>Hear hear!!! Here here, too.

Yep. Although "QSY" is much simpler than its true translation, for the most part saying things like "What's your QTH?" seems a lot simpler as "Where are you?"

Ahh, these are the amusing little quirks of the trade. Just appreciate them for the amusing oddities that they are.

73 greg  
KD6QPY

--  
greg | Pro Child  
gsherwin@nyx.cs.du.edu | Pro Family  
| Pro Wrestling

-----  
Date: 26 May 1994 19:13:30 GMT  
From: newsgate.watson.ibm.com!watnews.watson.ibm.com!vinod@uunet.uu.net  
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <199405260839.BAA26054@ucsd.edu>,  
<9405261202.AA19929@umassmed.UMMED.EDU>, <2s2p2s\$j7v\$2@rosebud.ncd.com>.com  
Reply-To : vinod@watson.ibm.com  
Subject : HF starter rig recommendations (was Re: Bizarre QST Statement)

This seemed like an opportune moment for a post I have been wanting to make for sometime.

I read the QST article with much interest, as I am going to be looking for a used HF rig in a couple of months or so. I am waiting for my no-code ticket, and am studying code right now. I was thinking of getting a transceiver to listen to W1AW code practice, but instead got a ten-tec single band kit, which I am going to build this weekend, thus postponing the transceiver purchase until after I have my novice ticket.

So, please send me your advice on what I should look for in a used HF rig. I expect to be able to spend around \$400-\$450 max, for the rig, tuner, and power supply. So:

- What models would fit the above criteria?
- What features should I look for?
- What should I avoid?
- Can I get something which is all solid-state for the above price range?

I am cross posting this to rec.radio.amateur.equipment as that is probably a more appropriate group for followups. Also, please feel to email directly to me, and I will summarize to the net.

Many thanks in advance.

--vinod

email: vinod@watson.ibm.com

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End of Info-Hams Digest V94 #580

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